

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 404
By Godsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bernie Webb.

WHEREAS, at the end of the 1996-97 school year, an era in Northeast Tennessee athletics drew to a conclusion; and

WHEREAS, it is a privilege for the Tennessee General Assembly, on behalf of all of the citizens of Sullivan County, to recognize the accomplishments of those who have contributed so willingly of their time and have given tremendous service for the betterment of all; and

WHEREAS, Bernie Webb will be retiring as Sullivan Central High School's athletics director after 49 years as a fixture in high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, he has been involved in many aspects of sports; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Webb served 2 years as head football coach at Milligan College, where he was 10-0 in 1942; and

WHEREAS, he played baseball as an outfielder in the St. Louis Cardinals organization; and

WHEREAS, he expertly umpired in the Appalachian Baseball League; and

WHEREAS, his first high school coaching position was at Greeneville in 1947, and in 1948 he moved to Blountville to become the Tigers' coach in both basketball and baseball; and

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WHEREAS, in 1957, Blountville's basketball team, under his dynamic leadership, went 42-3 and reached the State Tournament Semifinals; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious coaching career he collected over 500 career wins; and

WHEREAS, after serving 20 years at Blountville, Mr. Webb became the Cougars' Athletic Director in 1968; and

WHEREAS, he has been inducted into the NET Sports Hall of Fame and Milligan Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, because of Bernie Webb's tremendous service to youth, there is a recreation park in Blountville which bears his name; and

WHEREAS, he has always been loyal in his service, and always been there for the kids, the school, and the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Webb is a role model for all of us to follow, and is always positive, encouraging, and optimistic; and

WHEREAS, he has been named "Citizen of the Year" on two separate occasions; and

WHEREAS, he single-handedly captured a man being sought in a manhunt for murder; and

WHEREAS, he evinces his faith as a member of Blountville Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to the accomplishments of this inimitable man, a gymnasium at Blountville High School was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, he is appreciative of the love and support of his wife, the former Betty Edwards, and their six children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby applaud the exemplary service of Mr. Bernie Webb for his loyal and unselfish dedication to the Sullivan County School System and to all of Sullivan County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the last Saturday in May be designated as “Bernie Webb Day” in Sullivan County, as a tribute to Coach Webb’s accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.